

To: Southerland, Elizabeth[Southerland.Elizabeth@epa.gov]; Behl, Betsy[Behl.Betsy@epa.gov]
From: Enck, Judith
Sent: Thur 1/12/2017 3:21:32 PM
Subject: FW: PFOA/PFPOS Clips

From: Shore, Berry
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2017 8:53 AM
To: R2 EPA Region 2 (EPA Staff) <R2_EPA_Region_2_EPA_Staff@epa.gov>
Subject: PFOA/PFPOS Clips

Hoosick Falls Residents Asked For Input On Settlement Offer

By Lucas Willard

January 11, 2017

WAMC Public Radio

Later this week, officials in the Rensselaer County community of Hoosick Falls will consider a settlement offer by two companies deemed responsible for contaminating water sources with the chemical PFOA.

A special village board meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening. Hoosick Falls residents will get the chance to speak their minds on an \$850,000 settlement offer from companies Saint-Gobain and Honeywell intended to reimburse the village for costs incurred in the response to the removal of PFOA from the municipal water supply.

Village Mayor David Borge...

“We’re talking about flushing, we’re talking about equipment repairs, we’re talking about costs, we’re talking about expert costs, engineering, communication, attorney’s fees, those kinds of things,” said Borge.

What the settlement does not cover is costs associated with installing a full-capacity filtration system on the village water supply, the temporary filtration system, ongoing maintenance and testing, etc. Those items are covered in the New York state consent order with the companies.

“So we’re not giving everything up. This agreement does not cover anything because it doesn’t need to. It focuses specifically on the costs put forth by the village since this began. And that’s an important point. I don’t think everyone understands that,” said Borge.

In nearby Petersburg, the town has been negotiating with company Taconic regarding contamination of its water supplies with the same chemical.

There, like Saint-Gobain and Honeywell in Hoosick Falls, Taconic is under a consent order with the state to deal with the PFOA contamination. The company has agreed to install a filtration system on the municipal water supply and private wells.

Petersburgh Supervisor Alan Webster says the town has been in negotiations “on a nearly daily basis.” The town is seeking reimbursement for costs similar to Hoosick Falls.

“There are costs that have been associated with our water district superintendent and the handling of the transition and the new filtration system, a lot of logistics with regards to water distribution, and of course legal fees and engineering fees as well. Consultation from both of those avenues are some of the areas we have been looking at and negotiating with,” said Webster.

A class-action suit has been filed against Honeywell and Saint-Gobain on behalf of Hoosick Falls residents potentially injured by the chemical contamination. PFOA, which is odorless and colorless, has been linked to ill-health effects including cancer.

The companies have asked a federal judge for a dismissal in the case.

Honeywell spokeswoman Victoria Streitfeld said 11 plaintiffs who filed the suit agreed to postpone part of the litigation while federal and state agencies investigate and complete remedial work.

She wrote in a statement that Honeywell remains “steadfastly focused on completing these investigations under the supervision of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. We are committed to implementing an appropriate remedy and continuing to cooperate with the regulators, Hoosick Falls, and the community.”

Thursday’s meeting will be held at the Hoosick Falls Senior Center from 6 to 8 p.m. The public is encouraged to offer their thoughts before officials vote on the settlement proposal.

EPA adds Chemours to water order

By Jess Mancini

Jan 10, 2017

Parkersburg Newsandsentinel.com (West Virginia)

PARKERSBURG — Chemours has been added to a 2009 C8-related order between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and DuPont, the agency said on Monday.

The 2009 Safe Drinking Water Act consent order between EPA and DuPont concerns exposure to C8, also known as PFOA, from the Washington Works Plant. It was amended to include Chemours and a .07 parts per billion concentration threshold that triggers provisions for an alternate source of drinking water to be provided by DuPont and Chemours, the EPA said.

Chemours, created in a spinoff from DuPont, owns the Washington Works where C8 was once used to make Teflon. A science panel created in the initial settlement of damage claims found a probable link between C8 and kidney cancer, testicular cancer, ulcerative colitis, thyroid disease, pregnancy induced hypertension including preeclampsia and hypercholesterolemia in humans.

The amendment to the 2009 order is supported by data and the Lifetime Health Advisory issued by the EPA on May 19 that established the concentration of .07 ppb long-term exposure of C8 in drinking water, the EPA said.

The May change prompted the installation of carbon filters in the Vienna water system where C8 concentration exceeded .07 ppb. Similar filters have been installed in six local public water systems, as required in the original settlement, and C8 has been reduced to non-detectable levels.

The concentration of C8 in Parkersburg in the treated water from all wells is below .07 ppb, according to the Parkersburg Utility Board.

The amendment also expands the geographic areas to be investigated and requires appropriate action if levels in drinking water of .07 ppb or more are discovered, the agency said.

Chemours released a statement saying the company and the EPA have reached the agreement.

“Among other items, the agreement formalizes the geography and conditions under which the company will conduct sampling, report, begin and end treatment, and maintain the treatment systems for both public and private drinking water wells containing PFOA,” the statement said. “Chemours has worked cooperatively with local, state and federal regulatory authorities to implement the amendment requirements. Much of the work, including installation of water treatment for the (city of Vienna) and expanded private drinking water well sampling, is already completed or well under way.”

Attorneys representing C8 plaintiffs in damage suits against DuPont said the EPA has been asked for over two years to amend the order, according to attorney Rob Bilott.

“We have been asking EPA and the state for quite some time to revise the old consent order to at least reflect the EPA’s revised drinking water guidelines,” Bilott said on Monday. “We are pleased to hear that the old consent order is being revised, but hope to be able to receive and review a copy of the actual new order soon.”

The long-term exposure should be at .001 ppb, said Jeff Dugas, a spokesman for Keep Your Promises DuPont, a group formed to ensure the company remains liable for damages resulting from C8 exposure. That’s the amount scientists around the world believe may be safe, Dugas said.

However, the amendment makes Chemours responsible with DuPont, he said.

“It puts Chemours on the hook,” Dugas said.

Greenland residents seek funding for municipal water after new test results

Jan 10, 2017 3:31 PM

NH1.com

GREENLAND — Greenland residents are hopeful that new water test results will help pressure the Coakley Landfill Group to provide municipal water for those affected by the landfill.

The results, presented before the Greenland Board of Selectmen on Monday, show the presence of perfluorochemicals (PFCs) in surface water around Coakley landfill, including in Berry's Brook. Advocates for residents living around the landfill hope the results will lead to the CLG helping to pay to pipe municipal water to Greenland residents after the town's selectmen requested the service, according to Seacoastonline.

The Coakley Landfill Group, which includes the city, rejected the town's request in 2016. The city's environmental planner had said that no contaminants have been detected in private wells above the Environmental Protection Agency's advisory level.

The result showed PFOA levels of 68 parts per trillion and PFOS levels of 36 parts per trillion next to the landfill's fence. At the location where the brook meets Berry's Brook Road, the level showed 198 parts per trillion for PFOA and 70.5 parts per trillion for PFOS. Five miles down the brook, Barnum said there were some PFOA and no PFOS, and he said it would be preferable to check between that point and the middle test spot in the brook to test for more evidence of the contaminants traveling, seacoast reports.

Residents of Greenland, North Hampton and Rye have previously expressed concerns about their drinking wells becoming contaminated due to the landfill.

Michigan law targets Oscoda water, but will the military follow it?

By Garret Ellison | gellison@mlive.com

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Michiganlive.com

A perfluorinated chemicals (PFC) monitoring well at the fire training area at the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda Township, Mich. on Aug. 12, 2016. Chemicals from fire fighting foam used on the base have created toxic PFC plumes that are leaching through the local groundwater. (Garret Ellison | MLive.com)

LANSING, MI -- Gov. Rick Snyder has signed a bill meant to force the U.S. military to supply safe drinking water to Oscoda residents whose wells are polluted with toxic chemicals leaching from the closed Wurtsmith Air Force Base, but it's not clear whether the Pentagon is interested in following the new law.

Public Act 545 of 2016 amends the state Safe Drinking Water Act to require the state or federal government provide an "alternative water supply" to affected private residential well owners if state health officials have issued a drinking water advisory and the government is the source of the pollution.

"This bill helps ensure that Michigan residents get the quality water they deserve in instances where their current supply becomes contaminated because of substances from state or federal properties," said Snyder.

The law applies statewide, but is targeted at the U.S. Air Force in Oscoda, which has only supplied safe water to one residence despite large plumes of toxic perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) spreading through the local groundwater.

Old hydrant water may prove veterans were poisoned in Oscoda

20-year-old water samples could help push for Wurtsmith health study.

The bill was sponsored by state Sen. Jim Stamas, R-Midland, who said he developed the legislation after speaking to an Air Force staff member about what measures the state could employ to compel the military to do more in Oscoda.

However, it's unclear whether the Air Force will comply with the new law. In November, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) sent the state House committee on Local Government a letter calling the legislation "unnecessary," claiming the law "would not be enforceable" because the military enjoys sovereign immunity from state law and the bill "singles out the DOD and its components for disparate treatment."

"Because the proposed legislation discriminates against the DOD, we would not be able to expend funds to comply with it if it became law," wrote U.S. Department of Defense environmental coordinator James R. Hartman.

Presently, an ever-expanding joint state and federal investigation is attempting to wrap its arms around the extent of the PFC plumes, which are migrating off the base into areas that have site investigators scratching their heads.

Plumes have been moving through the sandy Oscoda soils since the Air Force began using a PFC-laden firefighting foam in the 1970s at the base. Several PFCs, which bio-accumulate and persist many years in the environment, have been tied to thyroid, kidney, liver, reproductive and other health problems.

Although the plumes are still being mapped and investigated, only one private well has thus far tested above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency health advisory level of 70 parts-per-trillion (ppt) for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctyl sulfonate (PFOS); the only two of 19 different PFCs in the Oscoda groundwater for which the government has quantified the health risk.

The Air Force claims DOD rules prohibit the military from supplying safe water unless a property owner has a well testing above the EPA health advisory level. According to a DOD memo sent by Hartman, "installations shall not establish an alternative action level where a HA (health advisory) or other promulgated standard does not exist, or impose a more stringent level."

Nonetheless, Hartman claims the Air Force is "committed to providing bottled water and working with landowners to implement long-term alternate water supplies for drinking water wells affected by PFC levels above" the EPA health advisory level, which was set in May.

Stamas said that's not good enough. Oscoda deserves a long-term sustainable solution, not "just providing bottled water for a period of time."

"Currently, the taxpayers of Michigan are putting up the dollars," he said.

On Tuesday, Jan. 10, Mark Kinkade, public affairs officer with the Air Force Civil

Engineer Center, which is coordinating hundreds of PFC investigations around the country, issued a statement that said the Air Force follows the federal Superfund and state laws.

"The Air Force works closely with state and local regulators to protect human health and the environment. We comply with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), as well as applicable state laws for statutory direction when responding to releases of hazardous substances, pollutants and contaminants. The Air Force is providing bottled water and working with landowners to implement long-term alternative water supplies for drinking water wells affected by PFOA/PFOS levels above the U.S. EPA health advisory level."

Last February, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services issued a joint advisory with the local health department in Iosco County urging residents with private wells near Wurtsmith to "seek an alternative water supply."

Since the advisory, the state has been handing out reverse osmosis filters, water jugs and extending municipal mains, partly with assistance from a \$500,000 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture grant and a \$1 million state budget appropriation.

The new law essentially demands the Air Force reimburse state and local authorities for that work, as well as conduct long-term plume monitoring and provide safe water to any future wells polluted by the PFC plumes.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has found PFC-contaminated groundwater north of the base, where a plume has crossed Van Etten Lake into an area of homes along U.S. 23. South of the base, a wetland area called Clark's Marsh contains fish testing at the highest PFOS levels ever recorded anywhere.

Michigan maintains a "do not eat" advisory for all non-migratory fish caught from Clark's Marsh and the lower Au Sable River south of the base.

Testing for PFCs at Wurtsmith began in the late 1990s, but the DEQ started looking for the chemicals in 2010. In 2015, a groundwater pump-and-treatment system was installed on the base near the old fire training area. Many locals, however, only became aware of the pollution concern after the 2016 advisory.

Although only one private well has sampled above the EPA advisory level -- it registered at 3,300 ppt for PFOA and 96 ppt for PFOS on the western shore of Van Etten Lake -- state health officials said part of the impetus for their advisory was amount of other PFCs in the groundwater that are just as environmentally persistent, but have not been studied as much.

University studies put the safety threshold for PFOS/PFOA exposure much lower than the EPA. In 2015, researchers Philippe Grandjean at Harvard School of Public Health and Richard Clapp of the University of Massachusetts-Lowell pegged 1 ppt as the safe level of PFOA in drinking water.

Total PFCs are being found above 5,000-ppt in the worst plumes. Large swaths of land south and southwest of the base are contaminated at levels between 50 and 5,000 total PFCs, depending on proximity to areas where foam was used.

The uncertainty about health risks posed by not just PFOS and PFOA, but the total scope of the PFC plumes, is driving much of the state response.

Christina Bush, a toxicologist with the Michigan DHHS who has been helping analyze well-testing results, said the department approves of the new law.

"It is action that's not based on a number -- a criterion or drinking water standard," she said. "If the state health department issued a health advisory for drinking water, that would be sufficient to start action."

"We found that to be protective of public health."

Contaminants in Long Island water

January 10, 2017

Newsday

The EPA has asked water companies above a certain size to monitor water samples for 33 contaminants. Here are the results of 28,092 tests on Long Island.

The Environmental Protection Agency has asked water companies above a certain size to monitor water samples for 28 contaminants that are not now regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Here are the results of 28,092 tests on Long Island in the most recent round of testing. The government has set target limits on 20 of the substances and this database indicates where those limits were exceeded and where they were not. Another eight substances have no limit set and the database indicates where those were detected as all. In many tests, the substances were not detectable above a minimum level. Aqua NY- Sea Cliff, Aqua NY and Long Island American Water Corp. are now known as New York American Water. Amounts listed are in parts per billion (PPB). This database was posted on Jan. 9, 2017.